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## Newsletter - 1990-05-17

E. De la Garza

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# NEWSLETTER

101-1259

17 May 1990

Washington, D C

**THE SEARCH FOR THE DIABETES GENE.** Diabetes affects 12 million Americans. A half million people in this country die of diabetes and its complications each year.

Research has shown that a disproportionately high percentage of Americans affected by diabetes are of African, Native American, Native Hawaiian, or Hispanic ancestry. For example, black women are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes as white women. Aging Hispanics are also more likely to have diabetes than the general population, with one-third of the group between 65 and 74 years of age likely to suffer from the disease.

Diabetes and its complications add an estimated \$20 billion annually to our nation's health care costs, a significant portion of which includes Federal spending for the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security disability programs. Diabetics make up about 30% of the new dialysis patients entering the Medicare End State Renal Disease (ESRD) program each year. Federal Medicare costs for treatment for diabetes-related ESRD alone run about \$750 million annually.

As Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am deeply concerned about the prevalence of diabetes among my fellow Hispanics. On 26 April, 1990, I attended the Capitol Hill Conference on Diabetes. This conference was called to focus public attention on the disturbing statistics surrounding diabetes, particularly its prevalence among minorities and its increasing costs in terms of health care. The conference underscored the opportunity that now exists to use modern technology and genetic research to find the cause and possibly a cure to diabetes by the end of this century.

A new research initiative, "The Search for the Diabetes Genes," has been proposed which would commit Federal funds for the diabetes genetic research activities sponsored by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), a part of the National Institutes of Health. It is only through the funding of such valuable research activities that we can eventually find the cause and the cure of diabetes. One day I believe we will.

# # #

**TO ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS.** As Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, I want to advise that **now is the time** to apply for the Institute's Fellowship Programs and to come to the nation's capital for the 1990-1991 academic year.

Providing work experience, a stipend to cover housing and other living expenses, and major medical insurance, the Institute and the sponsoring corporations offer you a chance to observe first-hand the workings of Capitol Hill. In your months in Washington, D C, you will also meet other young students who share your interests and dreams, and learn about your own potential to give something back to the Hispanic community, whether your ambition is to eventually go into business, law or politics, medicine, or the arts.

One thing to keep in mind is that the admission to the Institute's programs is very competitive, so please look into other internship and fellowship opportunities -- many of these are worthwhile and would benefit from having more Hispanic participants.

I firmly believe that the Institute's internship and fellowship programs can be one of the most informative and inspiring experiences in a young person's life. The work experience enhances your studies by providing a chance to apply theory in a world beyond the classroom. It also allows you to test career goals and to meet and work with people already established in the workplace.

## —KIKA DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS—

The programs run from September 1990 to May of 1991. Students eligible for the programs are recent college graduates or graduate students who are currently enrolled in master's programs. All participants must be fluent in English.

If this is an opportunity which interests you, to receive an application form call 1-800-367-5273. When you submit your application you will need to provide official transcripts, one or two writing samples, a current resume, and no more than three letters of recommendation -- one each from a faculty member, community leader, and employer. These should be from people who know you and can evaluate your potential as a participant.

The application deadline is June 22, 1990, so don't wait. **Apply today.**

# # #

**MORE ON THE WAR ON DRUGS.** Recently, our Texas Governor announced grants had been awarded to fund enhanced drug law enforcement projects through the Texas Narcotics Control Program. Funding for this statewide drug law enforcement program was authorized by Congress through the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (PL 100-690). In the 15th District of Texas the specific projects funded are as follows:

Karnes County, 81st Judicial District Task Force	\$131,636
Kleberg County, South Texas Specialized Crime and Narcotic Task Force	421,085
City of McAllen Narcotics Trafficking Task Force	607,047
San Patricio County Tri-County Narcotics Task Force	345,254
Starr County Drug Task Force	229,704

For Fiscal Year 1990, as in past years, the program received tremendous interest as evidenced by the 100 applications submitted, and it is a program which has produced substantial benefits to the state. Since its inception in 1987, over 13,584 individuals have been arrested for drug law violations. Illegal drugs worth over \$714 million in street value have been removed from Texas communities and assets valued in excess of \$18 million have been confiscated from drug traffickers.

In addition to these impressive statistics, the Texas Narcotics Control program has truly effected the coordinated, cooperative approach to drug law enforcement envisioned by Congress in passage of the Omnibus Anti-Drug initiative. Unprecedented multi-agency cooperation is occurring between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in Texas. In fact, our state was mentioned by President Bush back in January when he cited Texas' "impressive drug program" as an example of a serious and comprehensive state plan.

These accomplishments could not have been achieved without legislation and appropriations to enhance drug law enforcement in Texas. Such efforts provide the opportunity for our Texas cities to move ahead aggressively in the war on drugs. Let's keep up the good work.

# # #

**SERVICE ACADEMY OPPORTUNITIES.** Each year members of Congress have the honor of nominating young people in their respective districts to the United States service academies. Based on the recommendations of members of Congress, the Air Force, Military, Naval, and Merchant Marine Academies make the final decisions on whom will be offered an appointment.

Applications are currently being accepted through 31 December 1990 for next year's nominations. Applicants must be high school seniors or graduates, and between the ages of 17 and 21. If you're interested in applying for a nomination, contact my office here in Washington. The address is 1401 LHOB, Washington, DC 20515.

# # #

**VISITORS.** Mr & Mrs Billy Edwards, Mr Romeo Garcia, Mr & Mrs Juan Gonzalez, Sr and son, Juan Jr, all of Alice; Mr Julius Collins of Brownsville; Mr Walter Cross of Edinburg; Ms Lorene Byrnes and Ms Charlene Haas of Ingleside; Mr Kenneth Jones of McAllen; Mr & Mrs Martin Garcia of Raymondville; and Mr & Mrs James McCarthy of Rio Hondo.

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